

*Mr. W. B. Wood*  
ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
*letterz*

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

## THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

# SIPSEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

CHAPEL HILL CHURCH, OCT. 1ST TO 3RD, 1892.

**OFFICERS:** Jas. Mills Jr., Moderator; Sipsey Turnpike, Ala.  
J. B. Ferguson, Clerk; Samantha, Ala.

Next Session to Meet With Dunn's Creek Church, on Wednesday, Before the  
First Sabbath in October 1893.

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# MINUTES

Of the Ninth Session of the Sipsey Baptist Association was held With Chapel Hill Church on October 1st to 3rd 1892.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. A. G. Porter; text: "Mathew 16th, chapter and 19th verse." After a recess of an hour for dinner, the delegates assembled in the house and were called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. J. M. Chism. Devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator.

Letters from the churches were called for which were read by James Mills, Jr., and Wm. Chism, and delegates names were enrolled as follows:

PLEASANT RIDGE—Rev. I. H. Ashcraft, J. F. Ashcraft and J. L. Smith. DOUBLE BRANCH—Joseph Autry, F. D. Gardner and A. J. Skelton. CHAPEL HILL—J. W. Sanders,\* W. H. Brown and Z. Davis. MT. TABOR—Rev. J. M. Chism, A. A. Richardson and Hosea Bradley.\* OAK-RIDGE—John Belk,\* J. M. Lindsey\* and C. R. Davis. MACEDONIA—D. H. Anderson L. K. Hallman,\* and J. C. Hallman.\* CORINTH—Jas. Mills Jr., E. Mayfield and J. A. Mitchel.\* DUNNS CREEK—G. D. Mayfield, James White and H. W. Gardner. FLAT WOODS—J. B. Moss,\* E. R. Hall,\* W. J. Jones. MOORES BRIDGE—Harrison Sullivant, W. E. Sullivant and D. E. Windham. SPRING HILL—A. Guin, J. T. Carter and R. Hays. NEW HOPE—R. L. South, W. F. Taylor and Rev. I. B. Davis. BETHABARA—T. H. Wheat, W. H. Shipp\* and D. D. Mitchell. FRIENDSHIP—J. B. Ferguson, I. L. Collins and L. M. Trayweek. MT. HEBRON, C. Winter,\* H. P. Reece and B. M. Freeman.

Delegates not present marked thus. \*

The Moderator announced the body was now ready to elect officers. Bro. Jas. White requested the body to release him from the office of Clerk. They then proceeded to elect officers which resulted in the choice of Jas. Mills Jr. Moderator and J. B. Ferguson Clerk.

The officers elected being seated the body proceeded with the business for which they had met.

1st. Opened the door of the Association for the reception of churches when Sardis Church was received and her delegates Rev. J. S. White and

B. L. Moore were seated with the body.

2nd. Called for correspondents when Rev. J. A. Anders of the Yellow Creek Baptist Association came forward and was received and seated with the body.

3rd. Returned correspondence. To the Tuskaloosa Association, Rev. J. M. Chism, W. E. Sullivant, Jas. Mills, Jr., and C. Crossland; Jas. White to write. To the Union Association, R. O. Richardson, Rev. A. J. Porter and Rev. I. N. Asherraft; G. W. Ashcraft to write. To the North River Association, W. F. Jones and Rev. J. B. Ferguson; J. B. Ferguson to write. To the New River, Rev. A. J. Porter, J. M. Asherraft, Rev. I. N. Asherraft, V. Davis and S. T. Walker; V. Davis to write. To the Yellow Creek, Rev. I. N. Asherraft, F. D. Gardner and Rev. J. M. Chism, J. M. Chism to write. To the State Convention, R. O. Richardson and W. F. Jones.

4th. Appointed committees. On Devotion, H. Gardner and the Pastor and Deacons of Chapel Hill church. On Documents, G. D. Mayfield, E. Mayfield and J. M. Chism. On Finance, A. Guin, D. E. Windham and J. F. Asherraft. On Nominations, Jas. White, L. M. Trayweek and W. E. Sullivant. On Arrangements, J. B. Ferguson, J. M. Chism and Jas. White. On Religious Literature, J. White, J. M. Chism and F. Gardner. Adjourned to 8:30 o'clock Monday morning with prayer by W. E. Sullivant.

#### SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 2nd.

Prayer meeting conducted by Jas. White, preaching at 11 by Rev. J. B. Ferguson, text "Daniel 2nd chap., 44th v." At this hour a very large congregation had assembled in the shade near the church where they were furnished with seats, and judging from their undivided attention they were very much interested in the subject of Missions as it was presented to them. At the close of the sermon a public collection was taken, (for results see report on finance.) At 2 p. m. Bro. Etses of the Union Association delivered a sole thrilling discourse to a large and attentive concourse of people. At night Bro. Andrews gave us another excellent sermon all of which was patiently listened to, and we hope will accomplish much good in the future.

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 3rd.

The body met at appointed time. Devotional exercises by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. J. S. White.

Called for report of committee on arrangements which was adopted as follows: Your committee on arrangements would report. 1st. Read constitution, articles of faith and rules of decorum. 2nd. Call for reports on Sabbath Schools—Temperance—Missions—District meetings—Nominations—Documents—Religious Literature—Finance—Appoint a treasurer—Appoint standing committees, call for miscellaneous business. Respectfully submitted, J. B. Ferguson, chairman.

1st. Read constitution, articles of faith and rules of decorum.

2nd. Received and adopted report on Sabbath Schools as follows: Your committee on Sabbath Schools would report our Sabbath School convention last July at Corinth Church was a failure for lack of attendance. By inquiring of the delegates find that there are but five Baptist and one union

Sabbath Schools in our Association. If we believe Paul was correct when he said the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, why will not Christian parents and church members teach their children and all others the Gospel which will make them wise unto salvation. This can be done more effectually in the Sabbath school than anywhere else. We would recommend that a Sabbath School be organized in each church, and that a Sabbath School convention be held in each district of the association during the coming year and each Sabbath School is requested to send delegates to their convention and the secretary of each Sabbath School send a full report of their school, the number of pupils; who are their officers &c., and the Sabbath School committee make a full report of all our Sabbath Schools to the next session of the Association. Brethren we should wake up to this important work. We are taught in the scripture; bring our children up in the way they should go. Respectfully submitted.

J. M. ASHCRAFT, Chairman.

By motion the regular order of business was suspended and brethren Zack Savage, W. W. Gravlee and J. Price were received as correspondents from the New River Association.

3rd. Received and adopted report on Temperance as follows, which was extensively discussed.

Your committee on Temperance report that from the best information that we have of intemperance and the mingling and commingling of the masses we are forced to the conclusion that temperance is rather retrograding and perhaps we are in no better condition now than we were one year ago though in some communities it is worse while in some it is better. We trust that the Christian people of this country and especially those of them who are enlisted in the great army of Temperance reform, may succeed grandly. We have great reason to congratulate ourselves upon the brilliant victories that have been won under the bright shining banner of Temperance not only within the borders of our own territory, but all over these United States; the cause of Temperance is on rising ground. We hope the time is not far distant when our families and our churches will be unmolested by the drunken reveling crowds that have heretofore disgraced our country and filled our courts with litigation. We notice a strong disposition on the part of persons who have heretofore indulged in strong drink to fall into line with the Temperance army. It is well said that the Temperance reform is a great revolution, and as revolutions never turn backward we have reasons to believe it will go on and on until the desire of our hearts will be accomplished. All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. J. PORTER, Chairman.

4th. The report on missions was read, discussed and adopted as follows:

DEAR BRETHREN: That it is the duty of Christians to give the gospel to the brethren is no longer a question demanding discussion. The increasing intelligence and wealth of Baptists make it no longer necessary to stimulate the liberty of the people by stirring appeals. The plain teaching of God's word from the pulpit, linked with that great power for good and strong arm of the church, the Sunday School, has made ready a people for the work of the Lord. Science applied has so increased the means of communicating with the outside world that there is no lack of knowledge as to the great need of the perishing millions of the earth's inhabitants,

and the heathen are set down right at our doors. The systematic plans inaugurated by our leaders. Men chosen of the Lord, liberal and faithful, have so facilitated the ways of giving, that however urgent our business at home we may engage largely in the work of the Lord. Its needs only, that there be system in the individual churches. And just here we appeal to the deacons in all our churches to insist upon some regular and systematic plan by which every member will be led to give and thoroughly feel that they have an interest in the great work. My brethren let us not be Missionaries in name but in deed and in truth, let us show our faith by our works. Respectfully submitted.

JAS. MILLS JR., Chairman.

Adjourned one hour for refreshments; met according to adjournment, prayer by I. N. Ashcraft. Bro. H. Sullivant requested the body to excuse him from further attendance which was granted.

5th. Received reports of District meetings as follows: First District: The next session of this district will be held with Corinth Church Friday and Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in August 1893. Rev. J. B. Ferguson to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. I. L. Collins, alternate.

Queries for discussion: 1st. "How can the talents of all the church members be utilized for the advancement of the Christian religion," opened by L. Brown and R. Hocutt. 2nd. "What is the duty of Parents to Children and Children to Parents," opened by R. J. Mayfield and Jas. Mills Jr. 3rd. "Is our manner of administering and receiving the Communion according to the teaching of the Scriptures," opened by J. B. Ferguson and I. L. Collins. The District will hold an experience and communion exercise during its session. We recommend that the next session of the Association be held with Dunn's Creek Church.

J. B. FERGUSON, Moderator.

G. D. MAYFIELD, Clerk.

Second District: The next session of this body will meet with Double Branch Church, Pickens county, beginning on Friday before the second Sabbath in Sept. 1893. Rev. I. N. Ashcraft to preach the Introductory sermon; A. J. Porter alternate. First Query: "Is foot washing an ordinance, If so, why so, if not why not?" opened by Joe Autry and I. N. Ashcraft. Second Query: "Can a man arrive at a state of perfection in this life," opened by Robert Guin and J B Belk. Third Query: "Is the Gospel preached only to the church, or to the church and the unregenerated," opened by John Brown and Thomas Sudduth. Fourth Query: "Is the Sabbath School a work of the church," opened by W H Brown and J F Ashcraft.

J M CHISM, Moderator. G W ASHCRAFT, Clerk.

6th. Received report on nominations as follows: Your committee recommended that Rev. J S White, deliver the introductory sermon at our next session; I B Davis alternate. Rev. I L Collins to preach the missionary sermon; F E Mills alternate. Respectfully submitted.

JAMES WHITE, Chairman.

7th. Received report on documents as follows: Your committee on Documents would report. Having examined all the Documents placed in our hands find that there are six Sabbath Schools in this Association. There has been 29 baptised 13 received by letter and 3 restored. We find nothing more that demands your attention. Respectfully submitted.

G D MAYFIELD, Chairman.

8th. Received report on Religious Literature, as follows: Your committee on Literature, report that we recommend the Alabama Baptist to all of our people as an able and reliable, religious journal and would recommend Kind Words to our Sunday Schools; and that the State Missionary Quarterly be taken by all of our church members as it will instruct and edify all of our people, both old and young. Respectfully submitted.

JAMES WHITE, Chairman.

9th. Received report of committee on finance, as follows: Your commit-

tee on finance has received for minutes, \$14.15; for Associational purposes, \$9.50; for State Missions, \$10.60; for foreign missions, 50 cents; for indigent ministers, \$4.30. Total \$29.05.

A GUIN, Chairman.

10th. Appointed J. B. Ferguson Treasurer.

11th. Appointed standing committees. On Sabbath Schools, J. B. Davis, D. D. Mitchel and H. P. Reese. On Temperance, J. M. Chism, W. F. Jones and W. H. Brown. On Missions, J. F. Ashcraft R. L. South and Joe Autry.

12. Called for miscellaneous business, and adopted the following resolutions. 1st. Be it resolved, that whereas, this Sipsey Baptist Association believe that all illicit distilleries and that all Mormon doctrine and practice is a curse to Christianity, and to the morals of our country, and to all civilization. We do this day enter into a covenant, that we will pray God to move these curses from our land, and that we do earnestly request all sister Associations to join us in this covenant, and we further invite all Christians to aid us in this great work which we believe to be the work of the Lord. Presented by I. N. Ashcraft. 2nd. Resolved, that the first district hold a Sabbath School convention on Friday and Saturday before the 5th Sabbath in July 1893, with Friendship Church; also that the second district hold their Sabbath School convention with Pleasant Ridge Church on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in July 1893.

3rd. Resolved, that our clerk receive ten dollars for his service in preparing, superintending the printing and distributing minutes.

4th. Resolved, that we instruct our Mission Board to spend what money they may receive in the most needy places in this Association, and especially to look after Pleasant Grove Church.

5th. Resolved, that we change the time of our annual meeting from Saturday to Wednesday before the first Sabbath in October.

6th. Resolved, that we tender our thanks to Chapel Hill Church and community for their unbounded hospitality to us during our stay with them.

7th. Read and approved minutes.

8th. Resolved, that we now adjourn to meet with Dunn's Creek Church, 18 miles west of Tuscaloosa on the Columbus road, on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in Oct. 1893.

Prayer was offered by I. L. Collins. Some appropriate hymns were sung, while the delegates and congregation took the parting hand. Benediction by Rev. J. M. Chism. JAS. MILLS, JR., Moderator.

J. B. FERGUSON, Clerk.

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Ordained Ministers, J. M. Chism, R. J. Mayfield, J. B. Ferguson, W. J. Beaty, I. L. Collins, J. S. White, J. S. Shirley and I. N. Ashcraft. Licensed Ministers, I. B. Davis and A. J. Porter.

## CONSTITUTION.

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1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, on presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

3. This Association shall be known as the Sipsey Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to engage in missionary work in all its bearings, yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

4. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulties, and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches, to enquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; provided the aggrieved has followed the instructions laid down in the 18th chapter of Matthew; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may consider unsound in doctrine or immoral in practice, until the same can be reconciled.

5. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the name of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded, and deceased, since the last session.

6. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent at any annual session, shall be required to give a reason for her failure, at the next session.

7. Churches may be admitted into this Association who petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination, if found orderly and orthodox, may be received, at the discretion of the Association, when the Moderator shall give the right hand of fellowship to said delegates.

8. Any church in our union may send queries to the Association, asking advice, when it shall be the duty of the Association to answer the same as she may think best.

9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, except to change or amend the Constitution.

13. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session, when two thirds of the delegates present are in favor of such amendment.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

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1. We believe in only one true and living God—the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's inability, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the saints are preserved in grace and never fall final-

ly away.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of baptism, and that immersion is the apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the general Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of the church except one who is regularly baptized, called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.

12. We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right at the Lord's table.

## RULES OF DECORUM.

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ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and on obtaining permission proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a number for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision to the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without permission of the Association.

12. The appellation of brother shall be used in the Association by members in their address one to another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time; but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any one violating these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

# TABULAR STATEMENT

			Aggregate
		Post-Offices.	Association Fund
	CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Minute Fund
			Pastors Salary
			State Missions
			Foreign Missions
			Sabbath Meetings
			Date Constituted
			Sabbath Schools
			Total.....
			Died.....
			Excluded.....
			Dismissed.....
			Restored.....
			Rec'd by Letter.....
			Baptised.....

CLERKS.

1st DISTRICT.			
Friendship	I. L. Collins	Ridge,	N. B. Ramsey
Newhope	I. L. Collins	Ridge,	R. J. South
Sardis	M. W. Olive	Bankston,	J. M. Kelly
Mt. Hebron	J. S. White	Ridge,	T. H. Spencer
Bethabara	F. E. Mills		G. L. Trawek
Corinth	S. E. Hodge		J. A. Mitchel
Dunn's Creek	J. M. Chism	Palmetto,	Jas. White
Moore's Bridge	J. S. White		D. E. Windham
Macedonia	J. J. Patterson		A. E. Patterson
2nd DISTRICT.			
Spring Hill	J. M. Chism	Palmetto,	A. Guin
Oak Ridge	J. A. Estes		A. L. Walker
Chapel Hill	L. L. Collins	Ridge,	W. H. Brown
Pleasant Ridge	Frank Wilson		J. F. Ashcraft
Double Branch	J. A. Anders	Lubbub,	H. B. Chasleen
Mt. Taylor.	J. A. Estes		J. W. Dollar
Flat Woods	J. H. M. Anders	Raleigh,	E. R. Hall
Pleasant Grove, not represented.			

17

Total. *bills.* \$

*orrect. 837*

\$14.15 \$9.50 \$29.50

27.50 \$5.75

37.18 6.32 19 7.76 4 6



